# Musket

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The LHS Drama Troupe performs at the recent LEAF organic dinner. The dinner was the first major event held by the environmental organization. Story on page 6.

*Photo by Carrie Granger*

# Senate Passes Attendance Bill

by Paul Abbot

The Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate recently passed an Attendance Bill which will directly affect the student body. The bill, submitted by senior Senator Matt Lippert, changes the current attendance policy of the high school.

The bill states that students will be given "until 2:25 the next day following notification of an alleged unexcused absence to submit an acceptable letter of excuse." The bill also states, "Upon submission of the letter, the absence will be fully excused." Under the current attendance policy, such a letter would only excuse a detention, not an unexcused absence.

> "This bill was submitted because I felt that some students who were being penalized as a result of the errors of others."
>
> —*Senator Matt Lippert*

This bill ensures that students with legitimately excused absences will not only be excused from detention, but also will have no unexcused absences left on their permanent records.

"This bill was submitted because there was a feeling that students with legitimate excuses were being penalized as a result of the errors of others such as: parents, administrators, etc.", commented Lippert.

The Senate also discussed a Junior Substitute Bill. This bill, also submitted by Senator Lippert, would allow teachers to cancel classes that consist of juniors as well as seniors. Two years ago, the Senate passed a Senior Substitute Bill allowing teachers to cancel classes consisting of "exclusively seniors."

Many questions were raised concerning the bill. Principal David A. Wilson said that he would veto the bill if it ever reached his desk. Other senators were concerned with the number of students that could be free around the school at a given time. The bill was returned to committee, and will face the Senate again at a later, undetermined date.

The Senate also heard a petition from the International Students Association (ISA) for one of the five at-large seats the Senate has available every year. The ISA represents students from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups, as well as many new students at the high school. The Senate unanimously accepted the petition. Senior David Barzilai will represent the ISA in the Senate.

Finally, the Sophomore Class Council brought a petition to the Senate to make its annual magazine drive assembly mandatory. As a result of a bill passed last year, the Senate has the sole right to determine whether or not an assembly will be mandatory or optional.

Many senators, both student and faculty, spoke against the petition, stating that the magazine drive was not worth taking away from class time for. No vote had taken place on the petition as of press time.

# Referendum on Condoms Sought by Town Resident

by Erin Carlson

Earlier this month, the Lexington Board of Selectmen denied the Lexington Residents For Responsible School Policy's request for a non-binding referendum question concerning the availability of condoms at Lexington High School. This group, chaired by Lexington resident Douglas Yeo, is acting in response to a Condom Availability Bill passed by the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate last year.

Yeo's group, which opposes having condoms available in the school, must now gather signatures from over 2,000 of the town's registered voters by January 15 in order for the referendum to appear on the ballot in March. Yeo is confident that this will not be a problem. He commented, "The petition is well under way. We expect to have [all the signatures] by January 15."

The referendum question would be non-binding. In other words, it would represent public opinion. "A no vote doesn't overturn the bill, nor does a yes vote mean [the condom bill] stays," stated Yeo.

If on the ballot, the question to residents will be whether or not students will have to get parental consent to get the free condoms.

School Committee member Lois Coit said she would need "very convincing" evidence to change her mind. She added, "If I thought [condom availibility] was right and moral in May, why would I change my mind now?" The School Committee spent many sessions last spring listening to concerned members of the community and reading material given to them by Mr. Yeo.

Coit said, "The School Committee is not advocating teenage sex". She added, "It is safest not to have sex, but kids at LHS will have sex no matter what they are told. The question is what should [we] do for those kids? Just telling them 'no' is unrealistic and inadequate." She suggests telling the students that "if [they're] going to have sex, [they should] use a condom." According to Coit, not doing so would be "totally irresponsible."

During the original hearings for the condom availability bill, some residents pointed out that condoms do not always work. Coit commented, "[Condoms] are not a guarantee but studies have concluded that [they] should be available. Incomplete protection is certainly better than no protection at all."

Coit concluded, "Nobody likes doing this, but many of us who have read information are frightened about AIDS. Without AIDS, we would not have condoms at LHS."

# Jazz, Singing Groups Perform

by Offer Egozy

On the evenings of November 4th and 7th music lovers converged at the LHS auditorium to witness student performances at Jazz Night, which featured Mr. Leonard's improvisational classes, and the annual Fall Jamboree, which showcased the high school's a cappella singing groups guided by Ms. Peaslee. Both events, judging from crowd reaction and turnout, were huge successes.

The hit of Jazz Night came at the evening's end. It was the LHS Jazz Combo. The group consists of seven "more intuitive jazz players," as Mr. Leonard put it. They started their set with a Wayne Shorter tune called "Yes and No." Brett Sroka had a fine solo but the largest reaction was received by Matt Horton's alto saxophone solo. Additionally, pianist Julia Liu performed an excellent solo. After a Doug Beach song which was led by Mike Hsieh's smooth guitar play, the group played "Tuesday AM" written by choral director Ms. Peaslee. Jason Davis provide a fine solo on bass as did Mike Hsieh on guitar. The Combo's best came last. It was "Kyss Abyss" by Bobby Shew. Matt Horton provided yet another beautiful solo but the biggest impression was left by percussionists Matt Briggs and John Claybourne who shared a lively solo. As one student put it, their performance was analogous to "cleaning house and taking names."

The night began with Brian Koning's original composition, "There's Cyanide in My Applesauce." With Mr. Leonard on bass and Bobby Wong's spirited solo on the alto saxophone, the evening was off to a great start. After Herbie Hancock's "Watermelon Man," the intermediate classes came on stage.

The A Block Improv Class was anchored by Matt Horton's superb saxophone play. Ansel Singer-Barnum contributed the piece "Dissonance" to their set. This was helped by a soulful solo by saxo-

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A Jazz group made up of LHS students plays at the annual Jazz Night performance on November 4. The show, an LHS tradition, was a huge success.

*Photo by Hadley Langosy*

# Debate Team Enjoying Very Successful Season

by Roopom Banerjee

The Lexington High School debate team has begun this season flashing its brilliant colors. At the reputed Earlybird Invitational held at Wake Forest University, senior Matt Stephenson and junior Li-Cheng Wang reached Quarterfinals, winning a half-qualification for the Tournament of Champions (TOC) to be held at the University of Kentucky this spring. Stephenson and Wang were also successful later at the Bronx High School of Science, where they reached Quarterfinals, and qualified themselves for TOC.

As the season continued, the novice Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debaters made their debut at the Watertown Tournament, where sophomores Noah Herman, Dave Mimno, Tarah Dunn, and Rupa Mukherjee won awards. On the same weekend, experienced LD debaters went to the Monticello Invitational in N.Y., where senior

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**Debate teacher Les Phillips.**

*Photo from* **Musket** *File.*

# Debate Team Wins

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Roopom Banerjee reached the Octofinal elimination round. Also at Monticello, policy teams of senior Ray Deck and sophomore Andy Sung, and junior March Jacobson and Yvonne Ou reached the elimination rounds. The Bronx High School of Science tournament held on the following weekend was proven fruitful by junior Victor Karkar who reached Quarterfinals in the LD division, garnering half-qualification for TOC.

Preceding the Bronx tournament was the Bronx Round Robin to which twenty of the nation's top Varsity policy teams are invited. Lexington debaters Dan Marx and Josh McCarthy were among those present and finished in second place. The following weekend, Marx and McCarthy attended the Heart of Texas Invitational in Dallas, where they won first place. Marx also received the award for First Speaker at the tournament. Immediately following the Heart of Texas tournament was the Greenhill Round Robin, also in Dallas. There, Marx and McCarthy continued their winning streak by defeating a team from Georgia in finals, while Marx again won the First Speaker award.

Soon after Texas came a local tournament at Manchester-by-the-Sea. In the Varsity policy division, the sophomore team of Matt Nichols and Steve Lehotsky reached the elimination rounds. Also at Manchester, senior LD debater Courtney Harter reached the Semifinal round. A separate group of debaters went to Milton Academy to participate in Extemporaneous Speech; from that group, junior Joe Wallerstein won fourth place.

The month of November welcomed novice policy debaters, as a squad of novices traveled to Newburgh, N.Y. and were extremely successful. Among them, the team of Ben Vandiver and Dan McClain were declared Co-Champs with a team from another school, while Matt Kishlansky and Brandon Murikami reached Semifinals. Sophomores Rupa Mukherjee and Junaid Malek reached elimination rounds in the novice LD division. In the varsity LD division, Juniors Dave Mackey and Victor Karkar reached the Semifinal Quarterfinal rounds, respectively.

In the heart of November, a small troupe of debaters attended a tournament at Princeton University. From that group, senior debaters Amy Lang and Susan St.Pierre won the tournament in the Varsity policy division, while the team of Deck and Sung reached the elimination rounds. Meanwhile, senior LD debaters Courtney Harter and Roopom Banerjee reached the elimination rounds.

As the debate season progresses toward its climax, Lexington continues to win recognition around the country. Coach Les Phillips commented upon the success of his debaters. He said, "We do quite well in awards, but I really try to de-emphasize [winning]." He added, "I try to moderate [my] reactions since winning is not the

# Students Play Jazz, Sing

**Continued from Page 1**

phonist Stephen McGuire. They ended their part with the classic "Sweet Georgia Brown" which was led by pianist Andrew Zimmer who also contributed a fine solo as did guitarist Alex McGregor and again, Matt Horton.

As one would expect B Block followed A with an excellent rendition Miles Davis' "Four." This was anchored by good piano play from Tina Deck and a great solo from Hong Kwon. Also contributing strong solos were Stephen Kim on guitar and Jonathan Newman on trumpet.

"It makes me feel good when I see the progression from the beginning group to the Combo," Mr. Leonard summed up the event. "I was particularly excited about student compositions. Everyone grows because of it." He also added that one of the keys to the combo was its "aggressive horn players who climbed through the ranks."

Three days after Jazz Night, the Fall Jamboree took place. This evening was highlighted by the special guests. They were groups from Harvard and Radcliffe University. This was made possible by LHS grads Palyn Hung of the Radcliffe Pitches and Brian Lee of the Harvard Din and Tonics. The Masters of Ceremonies for the evening, Tanya Frank and Mehran Khaghani, succeeded in keeping the crowd very entertained between acts.

The night opened with the all female group Something Else singing the Beatles classic, "Yesterday." Following this was a lively version of Cyndi Lauper's "Iko,Iko.(Un-Day)" which really got the crowd excited. The performance featured a great solo by Tanya Frank. Following Something Else were the LHS Pitchpipes, the high school's all male singing group. They sang a very nice piece by Ms. Peaslee called "Doin' It A Cappella" as well as Simon and Garfunkle's "Cecilia." Both got good reactions from the audience. Pitchpipes Hong Kwon, Mehran Khagani and Brent Newcomb contributed fine solos.

Next up were Hong Kwon and Andrew J. Thompson singing a duet. They showed excellent range in the song "I Give My All" from Vinx. Both they and the audience seemed pleased with their performance.

After this was the coed group, Shaken, Not Stirred, who performed their namesake song. Additionally, they sang an excellent rendition of "I Remember You". Jessica Van Nostrand added a great solo.

The evening closed with the special guests. The Radcliffe "Pitches" were up first. Anchored by Palyn Hung, they started things off with the song "Scotch and Soda." After a few more songs came one of their best,"Don't Be Surprised" by Irving Berlin.

For this song a young member of the audience was brought on stage and sung to. They finished their set with the song "Fire." Excellent choreography and the addition of sunglasses added much to the song. A generous amount of applause was given as they left the stage.

After the Pitches came the Harvard Din and Tonics. They had just returned from a nine and a half week world tour and were happy to inform the audience that their compact discs were on sale in the lobby. They opened with the song "Don't Want No Trouble" which had the audience very excited. After a few more songs came the slow mellow "Desperado," greeted warmly as well. Then came their tribute to the Harvard Grad Tom Lehrer. They sang "The Periodic Table," a hilarious song which consisted of the repetition of all the elements in the periodic table at incredible speeds. With the background choreography it was a big hit. Another lighthearted tune was the well choreographed "Vatican Rag." This too had the audience rolling in the aisles.

Yet another hit was a rather obscure song based on a love affair with a "McDonald's Girl." The song contained such lyrics as "together you and I can make every meal a happy meal."

They closed the show their funniest and best song of the evening. It was a medley of things that were probably not meant to be sung a cappella but had been converted just for this event.

Among them were "Black Dog" by Led Zeppelin, "Born To Be Wild," and AC/DC's "Back In Black."

The group then jogged of stage to a standing ovation, a fitting end to an entertaining evening.

# C-House Snack Bar Probed

by Mike Conti

With the recent influx of complaints from teachers, administrators, and others, the survival of the C-House Snack Bar is being threatened. As a result of these complaints, the Marriott service in C-House may be restricted to lunch hours. The first Major complaint about the snack bar pertains to a machine called the Friolator. This is a deep frying device that emits strong fumes as well as adds to the unhealthy content of the foods being cooked.

> "We've always had a snack bar, and in the old days, the quality [of the food] was better."
>
> *—History teacher Samuel Kafrissen*

The strong fumes excreted are inhaled by the ventilation system of the rooms directly above and to each side of the Friolator. English teacher and C-House resident Patricia Maier stated that after the day was through "we were just dripping fat."

This problem was partially fixed several months after the initial complaint. However, there are still some complaints about fumes escaping from the new ventilation system into the school's ventilation system.

The second issue being dealt with is nutrition. The lack of nutritious food being served has some teachersand parents in a dispute with Marriott. Priscilla Deck, a concerned parent, commented, "Ever since they decided ketchup was a vegetable I've had my kid's bagging their lunch."

History teacher Sam Kafrissen, another C-House resident, has no problem with an all day snack bar. However, he believes that the food served should be of a higher grade. He said, "We've always had a snack bar but in the old days, the quality [of the food] was better."

The third and final consideration is the all day service itself. Assistant Principal for Special Services Diane Lande stated that she would like to see the snack bar open for breakfast and lunch and "not have the cafeteria open in between that time."

LHS students Monique Bynoe and Renee Faulk commented that the snack bar should be open all day because "it helps to get something in your stomach so you can concentrate." They then expressed concern for people who eat breakfast during a free block in the morning. In order to make everyone happy, they suggest that Marriot "just change the food served."

> "It helps to get something in your stomach so you can concentrate."
>
> *— senior Monique Bynoe*

If the school restricts food serving times, the students will be unhappy and Marriott will change their guaranteed, free of cost program. Marriot representative Steve Cooney said, "If C-house hours were to be changed, the worst case scenario would be that we'd ask for a guaranteed fee for Marriott as opposed to a cost-free guarantee to the district."

Article 7.6 of the Marriot contract states, "Service hours, service requirements, and type or number of facilities selling food and/or beverages within District's Premises shall remain consistent throughout the year." If the changes fail to meet these requirements, Marriott has the right to re-negotiate the finer points of the contract.

Within the negotiations, Marriott reserves the right to request money in exchange for eliminating the all day service. It has not been made clear by the administration where this money is going to come from.

The school has already shown financial problems and without the cost free program, Marriott would be yet another expense.

Lande stated, "I don't believe that worst case scenario will occur." She hopes to find a reasonable solution that will be satisfying to both Marriott and the school system.

In any case, the school must solve the problem. Not all the demands made can be met, and as of now, none of these demands has been put into writing.

**Students eat in the C-house cafeteria. The snack bar, which sells donuts and fries, attracts dozens of students every day.**

*Photo by Carrie Granger*

# News Briefs

## School Election

In a simulated election run by the LHS history department, Democratic candidate Bill Clinton won by landslide with 56% of the popular vote.

Independent Ross Perot was second with 21% and Republican Incumbent George Bush placed third with 13%.

Other candidates took 10% of the votes. An impressive 560 LHS students showed up excercise their *faux*--franchise rights.

## Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Semifinalists from Lexington High School for 1993 the National Merit Scholarship competition are: Prabahan Basu, Raymond Deck, Susan Gorman, Jason Handwerker, and Courtney Harter.

Also Tetsu Inada, Hong Kwon, Matthew Lippert, Matthew Liston, Daniel Marx, Mandira Mehra, Dan Michaelson, Adam Seeger, Shana Seldin, Matthew Stephenson, Luca Struble, and Daniel Tenpas.

## Change in Condom Information

The Lexington School Committee recently revised the message which appears in the condom packets available to LHS students. It now reads, "Adolescence is full of decisions, many of them difficult and important . AIDS has made the decision whether or not to have sex more important than ever. Those who study the spread of diseases have predicted that thousands of today's high school students will get AIDS by having sex with an infected partner. We do not want you to be one of them. If you get AIDS, it will kill you. There is no cure for AIDS, nor will there be one for decades.

"The only sure way to avoid contracting AIDS sexually is not to have sex. We strongly urge you to abstain form sexual activity at this time in your life. Condoms, used properly, do reduce the risk of getting AIDS. They do not guarantee your safety and do have a significant failure rate. If you choose to engage in sexual activity despite the risks, you should use a condom.

"We are not making these condoms available to encourage you to have sex. We are making them available reluctantly, and only because we believe the threat to your life is very real. We care about you. We ask you to behave responsibly and to take care of yourself."

# French Exchange Students Visit LHS

by Dow-Chung Chi

During October, Lexington High School had the pleasure of welcoming sixteen exchange students and two teachers form Antony, France. The Antonians arrived in Lexington on October 23 and left on November 9 for a week in New York City. After that they returned home to Antony. The exchange went extremely well. "It was very intense," commented junior Omri Traub. "It is not something you experience with your [everyday] friends."

Elizabeth Meharry a junior, added that she got to "know everything about her [exchange student] by living together." These LHS exchange students are anxious to meet their French correspondents again in France next spring.

The Antonians left with a positive impression of our high school. One French student, Arianne Dossier, said that the "students [here] are closer to the teachers and feel free to talk with them." She also described the student-teacher relationship as "dynamic."

Dossier was especially impressed "by the French teachers" at LHS." She added, "In France, the classes are larger and the teachers seem to be less personal. They often forget the names of their students by the beginning of the next year.

Another major difference that the exchange students noticed was that American students place much more emphasis on extra-curricular activities than French students do. "In France, they put school work first, and then if they have time, activities second," remarks junior Natalie Berger. Some of the French students comment that to place activities before school work was not a good thing. However, many of the Antonians said that there were many more opportunities at LHS. For example, there are a variety of school sports here such as basketball, soccer, and lacrosse, but in Antony there are no school funded sports. There is only a town-supported soccer team. Antonian student Juliette Louis, correspondent to Berger, reasoned that "in France, school ends much later [in the day] that it does in America, so there is no time for [after-school] sports."

The French students were amazed by the number and variety of other extra-curricular activities. They were most impressed by the musical and dramatical groups. Dossier further mentioned that in Antony there are only a drama club, a photography club, and a new club called the jeu de role. This club is kind of the like the Dungeons & Dragons role-playing game in America.

LHS left other impressions on the exchange students as well. Dossier observed that fashion in the states was "strange and different." "Some of it would be considered taboo in France," she added. She envies the greater variety of blue jeans in America. She explains that in France there are relatively few styles of jeans.

The Antony students also remarked how clean the High School was as compared to their school which has graffiti covering walls. The strict rules on smoking off-campus were of great surprise for them because at the Lycée Descartes (Antony's high school), smoking is permitted in the school, but not in the classroom.

All of the Antonians agreed that Lexington was a nice town. Arianne revealed that her first impression was that "the houses are bigger and the colors of the trees are amazing..."

"Lexington is beautiful and very large. I like this town," said Louis.

The exchange program changed many of the Antonians' ideas and stereotypes of American teenagers. One French exchange student said, "the predominant image the French have of American students is one of watching TV and eating popcorn." Americans are also thought of as being lazy, not hard working. These ideas come from the French satirical television programs, similar to Saturday Night Live. Another source is the numerous American soap operas which have been dubbed into French. The French see these programs and speculate that this is all that Americans ever watch.

> "Students [here] are closer to the teachers and feel free to talk with them."
>
> — *French Student Ariane Dossier*

"Whatever our stereotypes were," Louis emphasized, "we left Lexington with a definite impression that LHS students work much harder than the Antonians had thought."

The Antonians had the unique experience of watching the media coverage of the of Presidential election this year. They were particularly amazed by all the negative ads, and the last minute campaigning. Arianne remarked that in France "there are no ads or campaigns the last weekend of the election." The French like Clinton and Bush equally Arianne said. She also claimed that the French believe "Perot is a clown."

This student exchange also left an impression on the LHS students. "It helped solidify my ideas [about French students]," comments Meharry. The experience also helped Lexingtonians learn more about themselves as well. It gave Omri Traub "a chance to see myself through another person's eyes."

LHS French teacher Karen Girondel agrees that the program was successful. She believes that the French students adjusted very well to American culture. On the morning that the Antonians departed, many didn't want to leave, and "some of them were crying, which meant that they were not homesick." Girondel hopes LHS students will gain even more insight when they visit Antony in the spring. Girondel wants them to "live the culture and language with all its taste, smells and sensations."

**Juniors Kate Olivier, Brad Heald, and Yung Tse run the AIDS Awareness group. The group seeks to educate LHS students about the AIDS virus.**

*Photo by Hadley Langosy*

# Group Wants Students To Be Aware of AIDS

by Sriram Krishnamurthy

The AIDS Awareness group at Lexington High school is seeking to promote their message throughout the Lexington community. The group was recently formed in co-operation with LHS Social Worker Martha Queenin and several students. The mission of the group is to make people realize that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly referred to as AIDS, is an issue, even in Lexington.

The group is co-led by juniors Brad Heald, Kate Olivier, and Yung Tse. Al Fruscione serves as their faculty advisor. The aim of the group is to raise money for the research of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to increase awareness of AIDS in the community. Also, they are seeking to spread general AIDS information about how the virus can be spread and what students can do to protect themselves.

The leaders of AIDS Awareness agree that the recent availability of condoms at LHS is a step in the right direction. But, they add, there is still much more work to be done. "[The High School] has made greater attempts at improving AIDS education than at a lot of other schools, but the program is still far from being sufficient," states Kate Olivier. Olivier adds that the group is would like to work hand in hand with the school, though they are not seeking and financial support from it.

Though the group feels that condom availability is a positive step, it does not believe in "safe sex." Olivier comments, "There is no safe sex, just safer sex."

Yung Tse added, "We do not want to promote anything, [whether it be] safer sex or abstinence. Our focus is to educate people so that they can make their own responsible choice."

On the topic of Magic Johnson, however, the group could not come to an agreement as to whether Johnson helps or hurts AIDS education. While they agreed that there was too much talk of just Johnson's case, some also felt that the basketball star re-emphasized that AIDS is not just a homosexual disease and can affect anyone. This leads back to the group's primary message, which is that Lexington is not immune to AIDS.

"We want people to acknowleage that AIDS is an issue in Lexington. There are ten to fifteen people in Lexington who have the full AIDS virus and about 60 more that are infected with HIV," reports Heald. That fact alone should make the people of Lexington realize that AIDS is becoming an increasingly important issue in our town.

Kate Olivier concludes, "What we need most at this point is support from the student body. Anyone who is willing to contribute their time, effort, and ideas to the fight against AIDS should leave us a note in the student activities center."

# Students Run Bank of Opportunity

by Dong Shen

Nearly everyone passes by room 27 in G house where the LHS Bank of Opportunity is located, but few people ever think much about what it does or what it offers. Some students snicker at the mere mention of the bank, but in reality it is a fully-functioning, student-run bank that offers many services to the student body of LHS.

The bank, a branch of Sterling Bank, offers savings accounts, checking accounts, certificates of deposit, and money market accounts to all members of the LHS student body and faculty. A home mortgage loan can even be taken out from the bank, though no one has done so to date.

The LHS Bank is like any other Sterling bank, though smal'er than most. It is furnished with all the generic bank furniture, including a pastel sofa, lightly stained wood counters and tables. Room G-27 could not be mistaken for anything but a bank. Most importantly, the bank is not just a facade; it has all the necessary computer connections into the main Sterling bank computer.

Many students do not have a full understanding of the bank. However, some students do have legitimate complaints. The foremost complaint is about its hours. Senior Craig della Pena reluctantly confessed that he opened an account there last year "only because I could get a checking account." He added,"The hours of the bank aren't good for me. It's a good bank but it just doesn't work for me."

Junior Shen Kiat Lim commented, "I just think the bank hours are inconvenient, but I'm sure it provides good services. The hours are pretty bad. It's only open during G block this year. How many people have free blocks during that time?" Lim added, "The bank should be open at least some time after school."

The time the bank is open is currently limited to G block, but as soon as the students from Banking I are trained to operate it, the bank will be open F blocks as well. Last year, the bank was open during F, G, and H blocks, providing nearly three hours of service each day.

The LHS Bank of Opportunity is trying to entice more business and hopefully in the process create a better image for itself. Ann Carter, the branch manager, said "We're trying to sponsor promotions for the bank to create more accounts. Currently we have about a hundred, but we'd like to see that number go up." During the month of November, the bank sponsored a raffle for a turkey and a pair of tickets to the Thanksgiving Day football game. "I hope we'll be able to sponsor more promotions as the year goes along," said Carter.

Beyond providing a banking service, the LHS bank is a learning experience for the three Banking II students who work there during G block. These students, seniors Andrew Finkleman, Vadim Gordon, and junior Mike Bumbaca, had positive remarks on behalf of the bank.

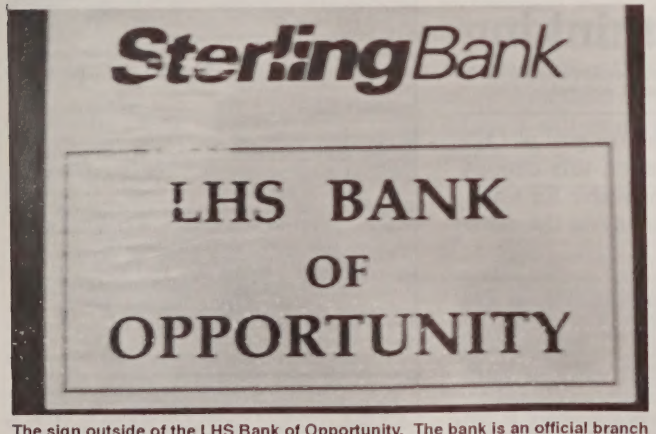
However, Finkleman did acknowledge that the bank had an image problem. He commented, "It's good the way it is, but not enough people know about it; we need more promotions."

The three students agreed that working at the bank is a good learning experience. Ann Carter explains, "The students run everything, they handle all the transactions."

Gordon felt that the experience is "good for business training," and has helped him with the job he currently holds at a bank outside of school.

Mike Bumbaca commented, "At first, I signed up just to get credits, but I realize now that [the bank] has good advantages. The bank has taught me to be responsible and to do the right thing. I think it has improved me."

The LHS Bank of Opportunity may not fit everybody's needs, but it is right in the middle of Lexington High School in room G-27. For some people the bank is perfect for their financial needs. For others, it is useless. But even people who dislike the bank will agree that it's a good place to get a free Sterling Bank pen.




**The sign outside of the LHS Bank of Opportunity. The bank is an official branch of the Sterling Bank Company and it is fully operated by students.**

*Photo by Hadley Langosy*

# Need for Guard Re-assessed

Upon discovering unexpected extra money available in this year's budget, Lexington High School chose to re-hire, among other things, the Alliance Security guard. The guard patrols the student and faculty parking lots and school buildings during school hours. The guard's primary duties include assigning parking citations to both students and faculty and preventing crime, such as theft and vandalism, on campus.

In the opinion of the Musket editorial staff, the incidence of crime on campus would not increase if the guard were let go.

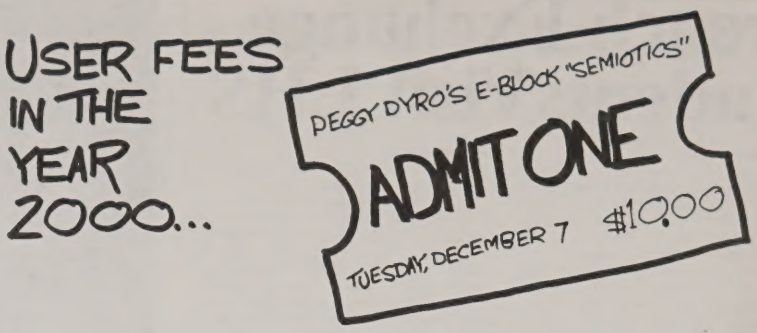
Look, for example, at the beginning portion of this school year. For most of the first quarter, there was no security guard and there was also no significant crime on campus. There were no incidences of vandalism then that would match, for example, the vandalism of the science building that occurred last year when there was a security guard.

It is true that the guard would be a stabilizing influence on campus if students accorded Alliance Security respect. Unfortunately, the organization and its employees have become targets of ridicule by LHS students of all grades. Alliance Security is not the police, even if it does issue its guards intimidating uniforms. The very fact that no-one knows why the guard is present undermines the effectiveness of that presence. Teachers and administrators, dressed in jackets and ties or jeans and T-shirts, gain more respect from students because the reason for their presence on campus is clear; they are obviously in authority.

It has been argued by some that it is simply cost-effective to have the security guard. In other words, if there were no security guard, they argue, higher paid LHS employees, such as building administrators, would be spending their time checking the parking lot and policing the back-side of the field house for smokers. This may be true, but it still seems that a full-time security guard is unnecessary. Do we really need a professional guard to watch the incoming traffic in the morning? It seems that hiring a guard part-time guard would be the most cost-effective course to take.

For the better part of twenty thousand dollars, the security guard has returned an orderly parking lot and a new object of ridicule for students. Lexington High School, financially strapped despite its summer windfall, is not in the comfortable position of being able to spend the equivalent of hundreds of textbooks or a good portion of a teacher's salary in return for the benefits of having a security guard.

*Such unsigned editorials express the general opinions of the Musket editorial board.*




# Condom Bill Should Not Be Changed

Following a proposal from the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate late last year, the Lexington School Committee agreed to allow free condoms to be available at LHS. Currently, a student can get a condom from the nurse, E-house cafeteria, or any guidance counselor. The *Musket* supports the availability of condoms at LHS.

However, members of the community continue to raise objections to the program on several grounds. A local referendum next year may require parental consent for students before they can take the free condoms. This is ridiculous. For two dollars, a student can buy protection at any drug store in town without the approval of anyone but the sales clerk.

We feel that the point of the current condom distribution policy is to recognize that students do make decisions that affect their health and the health of their partners. For better or worse, students are currently having sex both with and without condoms. It is great if parents are involved in a student's decision to have or abstain from sex. In this situation, the school's condom distribution plays no role; one would imagine that if a student expressed to his or her parents an intention to have sex, the parents, if no-one else, would supply a condom.

However, the school condom availability is aimed towards those students who aren't going to discuss their decision with their parents. In many cases, a student (even one with perfectly good parents) may make a private decision to have sex. This might be a bad decision.

However, forcing parents approval before the student can get a condom at school defeats the purpose of the distribution program, which is to place protection within easy reach of any student who is going to have sex. Preventing the school from giving such students condoms won't make them change their minds about the activity; it will either make them get a condom from CVS, or, more to the point, deter them from using one.

Condoms do not promote sex anymore than seatbelts promote driving fast. What condoms promote is informed decision-making instead of un-informed action. Condoms are a reminder to students preparing to make a serious life choice that there are dangers involved.

It is great if parents are involved in a student's decision to have or abstain from sex...However, the school condom availability is aimed towards those students who aren't going to discuss their decision with their parents.

It is a fantasy to believe that students do not know about sex. It is folly to believe that some of them aren't thinking about engaging in sex. Every condom they see, however, is a reminder of an STD, an unwanted child, or an AIDS victim. In every condom packet distributed by the school are several leaflets with information about using the condom and about the dangers of sex.

With the condom program already in place, it would be hypocritical for a school that preaches safe sex through an extensive Life Skills curriculum to make condoms less available. The message of the importance of thinking through the decision would be lost; as a result, adolescents would be presented with the alternatives of either having their parents make the decision for them, or not making a decision at all and having sex without thinking about protection.

Condoms are not pornography of sexual toys. They are a means to protect the health of people who choose to have sex. Parents should object to their children having sex. However, parents need to recognize that not every order they give their children will be obeyed and not every decision their child makes will be discussed. A policy which prioritizes the fear of parents before the health of teenagers is unconscionable.

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# Magazine Drive Should Be Banned

The Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate is currently engaged in debating a petition by the sophomore class that would make the magazine drive assembly mandatory for all sophomores. The magazine drive assembly involves a man throwing around a lot of money and various other coercive techniques aimed at getting students to raise money for themselves, their class, and an unnamed private corporation that sponsors the drive.

Jim Davis, the man who presides over the drive, literally calls random students out of the audience at the assembly and gives them money. He attempts to play on what he perceives as students' greed using this tactic and others, as well as the statement that fifty percent of their profits will go "to the community," e.g., back to the school.

This fifty percent includes an undisclosed amount of money that goes to buy students off: money given away at the assembly, money given away and used to buy prizes for students who sell the most magazines, and money and prizes given to randomly drawn students at various points throughout the drive. Since Mr. Davis has declined to release figures as to the cost of the prizes and monetary awards, it remains unclear how much money his corporation is making off of the work of LHS sophomores.

Given these facts, it is clear that the making of the assembly mandatory would be an abhorrent decision on the part of senate. In any setting, people should not be forced to subject themselves to being coerced into working to make money for someone else. Regardless of how much money the drive might raise for the school, the fact remains that an undisclosed amount of money raised by the work of students is still going into the hands of a private interest. The high school should protect its students, not force them in a situation of exploitation.

The magazine drive assembly involves using a lot of money and various other coercive techniques aimed at getting students to raise money for themselves, their class, and an unnamed private corporation that sponsors the drive.

In any event, the Sophomores need not resort to continuing this despicable activity because of a need for funds. There are countless other ways to raise money, many of which are infinitely preferable to the magazine drive.

The Musket strongly urges the senate votes down the petition from the sophomore class to make the magazine drive assembly mandatory.

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# Scheduling Policy Needs Re-thinking

Lexington High School is an academic institution, which is to say that the primary concern of the school is to educate its students. Recently, however the *Musket* editorial staff has noticed that scheduling has been significantly interfering with academic life at the school. It seems that the administration needs to re-assess its priorities in terms of scheduling.

During the last week of November and the first week of December, there were four conference days, two days off, one half day, and one late-start day. Of course, the *Musket* recognizes that the administration has certain requirements that it must meet. The school must have vacation over thanksgiving and the school must allow time for parents to have conferences. However, regardless of whatever circumstances the administration must deal with, the schedules of these two weeks have been unacceptable.

During this two-week stretch, we have, in effect, lost one full week of school. The reason that loss is unacceptable is that it was not necessary; the administration could have had conference days at different times.

Conference days and days off do not cause to much trouble by themselves, but combined, they make it difficult to have continuity in the classroom. We must remember that the goal of LHS is to *educate*. However, this choppy scheduling made it impossible for teachers to have any continuity in the classroom.

This is not to say that it is not pleasant to be able to sleep in or leave school early. However, teachers must have their students complete a certain amount of work each quarter.

We must remember that the goal of LHS is to *educate*. However, this choppy scheduling made it impossible for teachers to have any continuity in the classroom.

During these two weeks, teachers had to try to make up for lost time by giving their students less preparation then they usually might. It seems that the best way to remedy this situation would to be more careful in scheduling days when school will be cancelled or shortened. These two weeks are not the first time that the scheduling has made study difficult for students and and made teaching difficult for teachers.

The *Musket* recommends that the administration be more careful with the scheduling of conference days and vacation days in the future.

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# Casual Drug Use Is A Problem

There is not a drug problem at LHS, which is to say, gangs of armed teenagers do not patrol mapped-out turf, selling kilos of narcotics like so much flour. "New Jack City" has yet to meet the Birthplace of America. This gives many adults and administrators great cause for relief.

On the other hand, these days the party seems rare at which a stoned person does not stagger upstairs and start laughing at something inscrutable. A $20 bag of "pot" is more-than-adequate supply for two weekends. This is less than half the cost of the LHS yearbook, and it is quite a lot easier to get one's hands on a bag of pot than, let's say, a school phonebook.

Take as step back and ask yourself whether your life is so pathetic that you need to chemically alter your personality in order to think you're having a good time.

The average casual smoker of marijuana is generally quite healthy, does not have bags around the eyes, does not spend his or her days craving the next fix; weed is not a "fix" in the biological sense. In fact, those who smoke the drug are people like you and me. Except when they're stoned. They become someone new: a person whose judgement is impaired makes out with someone else behind his girlfriend's back; a person whose social skills have evaporated in a sweet cloud of smoke swears at her friend; someone whose motor skills have deteriorated to the point where walking is possible but not easy drives home against the appeals of his friends.

Assuming you stay away from heroine and cocaine, drugs will probably not kill you. However, they will hurt you. And your friends. This is a guarantee.

"Hey," says avant-garde risk-takers and suave sophisticates, "a bone never wrecked anyone's life. A little experimentation is healthy." What will you do while you're stoned? Walk up a flight of stairs? Have a romantic relationship? Drive a truck? These are all safe activities, performed with high degrees of success by many people, that suddenly become dangerous, at best just making you look stupid, under the influence of a harmless joint or two. But you feel cool, and the more joints you smoke, the more uncool you feel when you're straight, and the more often you smoke, and the more often your friends see you in your ever attractive capacity as the stoned person.

Of course, a high is fun. And you'd stop if it ever became a habit. This is also what most addicts say right up until slightly after they're addicted. The truth is, a high is fun because you're too stoned to know otherwise. The chemicals in pot will not hook you until long after its social effects have; that is to say, you probably enjoyed your first high so much that you want to do it again next weekend. Or tomorrow.

Take as step back and ask yourself whether your life is so pathetic that you need to chemically alter your personality in order to think you're having a good time. If so, narcotics may be the way to go, but keep in mind that your stoned self is probably quite a bit less attractive to your friends that the real you. Thus, there are two possibilities. If you find yourself doing drugs in a room by yourself for the sheer chemical experience, realize that you need to seek help; LHS offers a variety of services for this, somewhat rare, type of abuser. If, on the other hand, you find yourself doing drugs for the social experience of it all, ask yourself if it's worth hurting yourself and your friends for a reason you probably can't pin down. Consider your actions carefully. Drugs will screw you over.

- Dan Michelson

# User Fees Hurt Students, LHS

Many LHS students are not involved with school sports. Many do not even attend LHS sporting events. However, as students of Lexington High School, we should be concerned with the future of sports at LHS and with the recent imposition of user fees. This is because:

Lexington High School is (supposedly) one of the best public schools in Massachusetts. Consider Lexington's high percentage of National Merit semi-finalists (highest in New England of any public school in 1991), AP scholars, and other award winners. Add on top of that our strong athletic record in track, cross country, softball, tennis, and basketball. Also consider that our debate team, drama program, and music program are regularly recognized for their excellence. Compare LHS to other schools in the region. Multiply our local rank by ten-thousand and we see Lexington's position in the USA.

**The town of Lexington is one of the wealthiest towns, per capita, in Massachusetts.** It follows that Lexington High School, being funded by the town of Lexington, should be able to financially support the multitude of programs it offers. Tragically, this is not the case.

**Lexington cannot financially support, at least completely, the multitude of programs that it offers.** According to the 1991 Annual Report, school expenditures have been on the rise over the last three years, while fund allocations have decreased. the solutions to the budget woes took many forms: "modest staff reductions," elimation of some high school classes with small enrollments, and reductions in the budget for materials, professional development, and maintenance.

These cuts have affected students, but not as deeply as a measure that cuts to the quick: user fees for sports. Instituted this year as a one-time payment of $125, user fees have provoked mostly negative reactions. One senior commented, "It's not fair for one student to pay $125 for one sport and end up warming the bench while another student pays $125 and starts in all three." However, most people seem to agree that user fees are infinitely preferable to cutting entire programs.

Some student voiced discontent with the allocation of the money collected by the user fee. Some sports, like basketball, require less equipment and only one coach, but others, like football, have many coaches and require more equipment.

This issue is not confined to sports, however. Some believe that those involved in other extracurricular activities such as music groups and debate should also be charged a user fee. As for music, Mr. Jeff Leonard, director of the jazz and band programs disagrees with having a user fee. He added, "Music groups such as orchestra and band are curricular activities; they have a budget, the faculty is salaried, and the students are graded. You cannot charge money for a grade."

Debaters are also confronted with the question of a user fee. Last year the School Committee charging a user fee for debate. The argument was that debate tournaments should be treated as an addendum to the regular curriculum. However, Mr. Les Philips, the debate instructor, said that the tournaments are an integral part of the course curriculum. In addition, the debaters already raise large amounts of money on their own, without a mandatory user fee.

There are serious lingering questions about the nature of user fees as well as why they exist. If the goal of public school is a free, well-rounded education that embraces athletics and arts, then how can this school, presume to make us pay? I am deeply concerned about the precedent set by the user fee on sports. The current downward economic spiral seems to be worsening, and if more fees are slapped onto other activities, Lexington High School will become a school that is public in name only.

# Homophobia Should Be Addressed

"Homos" at LHS? No. That's not a real problem. Sure, a lot of students use the word "homo" loosely. You've heard it and equally derogative substitutes being said in hallways, cafeterias, and locker rooms. We often hear people calling someone or something "gay" when they really mean strange or stupid. This sort of snide name-calling demonstrates that we at LHS have a serious problem. It demonstrates that we, the future leaders of America, are unable to accept homosexuals as equal. If that discriminatory view prevails, our society is going to be in deep trouble. We will be giving only lip service to the idea of creating a more just society.

The first fact that we must face is that public display of homosexuality is growing. More and more gays are "coming out of the closet" and showing their sexual preferences for someone of the same gender. This coming out does not mean that there are more gays; it means that more of them have pride in themselves and are willing to tell the world about their sexual preference so they can have equal rights. We can't tell them to get back in. We can accept them of we can discriminate against them.

But wait, you say, there's a difference. "Ooooh, it's all right to ridicule gays," the typical student might say, "because they're evil." But are they? No evidence is cited to prove this claim because none exists. What's wrong with loving someone of your own gender? Just because some of us don't agree doesn't make homosexuality wrong. Homosexuality is not the norm in society, but that does not make it evil. Being a minority does not constitute being wrong.

Some students claim they accept homosexuality but think that homosexuals should "keep their feelings to themselves, in private." This is discrimination reworded. Why shouldn't homosexuals walk hand in hand across campus in front of everyone? Blatant heterosexuality is splattered all over the place. The perfect McDonald's twosome are practically on top of each other all the time. But gays, people think, shouldn't be blatant? All of the sudden, it seems, heterosexuals apply the Puritan heritage they have abandoned, but only as far as homosexuals are concerned. In other words, isn't this hypocritical? Aren't we setting a double-standard by judging others in ways that we do not want to be judged ourselves?

History proves that if society can get away with discriminating against one group it will move relentlessly against others.

History proves that if society can get away with discriminating against one group it will move relentlessly against others. Hitler acted against more than just the Jews. He attacked homosexuals, Gypsies, and the handicapped. He even had a program to kill off old people.

Don't say it can't happen here. Remember how we studied the Klu Klux Klan moving first against blacks, then against all "foreigners?" If you believe in bias against gays at LHS, you are telling your African Americans and Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans and Jewish Americans and Catholic Americans and all other minorities that they are second class

Is that the kind of atmosphere we want at LHS? Of course not. The taboo we should support should not be directed against homosexuality. The taboo should be aimed at ignorance and bigotry.

# Dear Dan & Dan

Hey, kids! This month Dan & Dan do Life Skills. Be forewarned: this is no watered-down, touchy-feely, people-get-respect version of Life Skills. This column promises to be aggressive, not just assertive. We speak from experience and tell it like it is. So, before you read on, stop by E-house.

The following is a compilation of questions commonly asked by insecure high school students such as Will Eisner. Remember, Dan and Dan are qualified!

Question: Where do I meet high school students interested in dating?

Answer: First, outdoors. The flagpole area is critical for obvious symbolic communication; a subtle upward glance can convey a world of meaning. The senior quad should be avoided; small shrubs have the opposite effect. The G-house parking lot offers a wonderfully romantic milieu of eau de carbon monoxide. The smoking area offers a similar haze, but the conversation is better. Indoors, the obvious hot spot is the SAC. However, for those who avoid class council members as a matter of policy, the weight lifting room offers many dating opportunities. Both Dan and I find ourselves mobbed by adoring fans whenever we enter the room to do some lifting. For those of you who can't curl subcompact automobiles like we can, standing around the periphery looking sweaty might do the trick. The cafeterias are a common choice. Here's the run-down: F-house is still the popular choice, but don't expect to get a date if you can't get a chair. G-house offers chains and bars. It's a little known secret that the B-house comfy chairs fold out (just kidding, c'mon back). Michaelson advocates the in-class pick-up: a clever note will get you far. Marx asks, "do you suggest dotting your i 's with little hearts?" Finally, a tip for you women: there's a very available-looking underclassman who hangs out in the H-house boy's room every day before E block.

**Q:** What are some good pick-up lines?

**A:** These fall into two basic categories — offensive pick-up lines for boys and offensive pick-up lines for girls. For the guys to use: "Want to work on a Life Skills project?" "Wow... look at that flagpole..." "Would you help me practice for the sit 'n' reach?" "So, do you come here often? [gesture toward H-house lavatory stalls]" For the gals: "What do you think of Freud's theories on castration?" "Can I have fifty cents? I could use a Dunking Stick." "Hey... are you related to Dr. Fiveash?" Our favorite too-offensive-to-use (not really) pick-up line: "I'll buy that for a dollar!" And finally, two all-time great non-gender-specific pick-ups need personal attribution: Sergiu Troie's "Would you like to invade my personal space?" and The Terminator's "COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE"

**Q:** What should we do on our date?

**A:** Here are the pros and cons of your basic option. Movie pros: helps those with poor conversational skills (i.e., those who met in the weight room); share popcorn/drink/juju-bees. Cons: little kids and old men throw Goobers; fighting over the arm rest; feet stick to the floor; and besides, she'll never want to see Under Siege . Restaurant pros: Food. Cons: trying to look suave while soiling oneself avec entrée ; hours of small talk; the check. Concert pros: everybody loves good tunes; fun-filled atmosphere; dancing. Cons: slam-dancing might not make a great first date.

**Q:** If I have no car, what can I do?

**A:** NOTHING!

**Q:** When do I make a move?

**A:** Renowned studs say, "wait until the moment seems right." However, Dan & Dan can provide much more specific instruction. First some don'ts: not in the car (especially if it is smaller than the Spotmobile), not in the movies (Peewee), not in a restaurant (messy and embarrassing), not in a house of worship (you'll go to hell), and NOT in the H-house bathroom. Do's: all else. As a general rule, ask yourself this question: "Is it legal in the 49 continental states?"

**Q:** Safety?

**A:** If you choose to have sex, remember there is no such thing as safe sex. To reduce the risk of painful and humiliating disease, always put a condom on your/your partner's Musket. E-house offers free condoms and information.

**Q:** What is the IUD?

**A:** We have no idea. We have been told it is like HUD, which is part of the NEA and is factored into your GPA by MVPs and VIPs in conjunction with WD-40 or instead of an RX-7, all of which can be found in the SAC.

**Q:** How do I dump him/her?

**A:** We're split. Michaelson says "Let's be friends." Michaelson had lots of friends until they read this column. Marx says "Postpone as long as possible (see next issue)."

This month's fan news:

Recently Dan & Dan were walking to class and were accosted by George F. Mechem. (The "F" is for "Fun.") He proceeded to effuse about the high quality of last month's column and how we successfully toed the line between lightly offensive and suspendable offense, erring always on the conservative side while maintaining our subtle social satire. "But," he asked, "can you do leitmotif?"

Well, we weren't sure what that is, so we looked it up in Barron's Ten-Minute Quick and Easy Guaranteed 800 on the English Achievement With No Work Prep Guide. Hey, kids, can you find the leitmotif in this month's column? We know it's in there, because like all great literature, this column is not just written, it is constructed.

P.S. Hey Kids! Dan+Dan are looking for Life Skills questions for our column. Please write to us with the question that's been bugging you. Or, write to us about the funniest thing that ever happened to you in Life Skills. Or ask us about dating/relationships. Be brief! All letters should be left in the Musket box of the SAC.

# Student Visits Arizona

by Victoria Chen

This past summer, while many LHS students were working, going to camp, or just enjoying the sun, senior Laura Premack was doing volunteer work just outside of Tucson, Arizona. She had signed up with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), a group of high school volunteers, and been assigned to the United States Forest Service for a five-week volunteer program.

"The SCA works to help government agencies protect the environment," said Laura. It is a non-profit volunteer organization funded by tax-deductible donations. About five hundred high school students receive valuable work experience every summer. Laura confessed that the US Forest Service "probably saved ten thousand dollars by having the student volunteers' help."

Premack's "high school work group" consisted of five other students, two girls and three guys, and one adult supervisor. The students' home states ranged from Massachusetts to Connecticut to New York to Kentucky. The supervisor was a thirty-five year old man with a red beard who had lived in Tucson for the last five years, Laura commented.

The group's job was to do two, two-week projects in the Santa Catalina Mountain Range, in the Pushridge Wilderness, which was part of the Coronado National Forest, located in Arizona and stretching into New Mexico. The last week of the program would be spent backpacking, hiking, and relaxing.

Premack emphasized that the five-week program was not a summer camp. "Because of the logistics, it was impossible to leave early," stated Laura. The SCA provided the food and group equipment, but Laura brought her own frame pack, sleeping bag, hiking boots, and personal equipment.

"During the first two weeks, our job was to build 'switchbacks' on an old horse trail located on Mount Lemin," explained Laura. "The trail went straight down the side of the mountain and caused a lot of erosion, so we made the trail crisscross along the side of the mountain."

While they worked on the trail, their base camp was located in some air force barracks, because "it was monsoon season, and our supervisor was afraid we would get soaked," laughed Laura.

Also on the mountain were weather observatories belonging to both the University of Minnesota and to the University of Arizona.

For their next project, the group moved to the upper fork of the Sabino Canyon, at an elevation of about six thousand feet. "A trail normally connected the back and front ranges, but it got so overgrown that people couldn't make a round trip on the trail," explained Laura.

Premack continued, "So, we used saws and loppers to cut the branches of the 'manzenita,' which was the underbrush with red bark. I think the bush gets its name from the Spanish word for 'apple'."

Their base camp was nine miles from the end of the trail. Mules and horses had brought about one hundred gallons of drinking water for the group to use during their two week project. However, "we found this stagnant pool of water half a mile from our camp, so we pumped the water with a filter. It was really cool!" exclaimed Laura.

The set-up of the camp was also unconventional. The students had a gas-powered stove with two burners, but opted to use rocks to make a table. Laura confessed, "We were supposed to keep our food in a 'sump pit' to keep it away from the animals, but we were kind of sloppy about it, so there were yellow jackets flying around."

The last week included a back-packing trip from the top of Mount Lemin. It was "bear country," so they made sure to hang their food packs on trees. On the second night of the hiking trip, it started to rain heavily. Unfortunately, the group had decided to leave their tents at the base camp and sleep out in the open during their trip down the mountain.

"We all wound up sleeping under one huge shelter made of our ponchos. We got pretty wet, but it was still fun!" exclaimed Laura. "The next day, we passed our base camp on our hike down, so we made sure we picked up our tents!"

The group had a rather unsettling experience during the trip, Premack revealed. "On our trip we had seen nine rattlesnakes. One night, we were all sitting in the dark. Suddenly we heard a rattle, and no one had a flashlight near them. So, naturally we all freaked out!

"Then, we lit a log on fire. It was kind of like a torch, and we used it to find our flashlights. By then, there wasn't a snake in sight. I guess it had just shaken its rattle to warn us that it was passing through," Laura laughingly recalled.

A particularly impressive aspect of the scenery was the cactus called "seguaro." "These were the stereotypical cacti with the upraised arms. I think that they are exclusive to Arizona. It takes about one hundred years for a seguaro to grow just its first arm. I saw really old ones which were very tall and had ten arms all tangled together," remembered Premack.

"The hillsides were absolutely covered with these cacti. I never got used to seeing them; I don't think you ever do [get used to seeing them]," Laura mused.

Premack enjoyed her summer experience immensely, saying, "At first I was scared of being with only five other people for five weeks. We were all different people with different backgrounds. The situation reminded me of [the movie] 'The Breakfast Club'... that's how different we were.

**Senior Laura Premack on a community service trip to Arizona. Premack went as part of the Student Conservation Association.**

***Photo from* Musket *file.***

# Organic Dinner is Held by LEAF Organization

by Victor Karkar

What group at LHS would sponsor a dinner consisting of only natural foods? LEAF, of course. The Lexington Environmental Awareness Friends held their first annual organic dinner on Friday, November 20. The dinner constituted LEAF's first large project of the year. The food used was grown organically, without the use of pesticides or other chemicals. After the dinner, attendees were entertained by various skits performed by the high school's Improv Troupe. Additionally, people who attended the dinner had the opportunity to take action concerning specific environmental issues by participating at booths set up with various purposes. A rainforest booth and an animal testing booth were among the choices.

> "We certainly encourage people to join LEAF because the only way anything [useful] can be done is if people work together to reach their goal. If the Earth is lost, so is everything else."
>
> *—senior Elizabeth Craine*

LEAF is a fairly young organization in the history of Lexington High School. Four years ago, during the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, environmental awareness was on the rise. The anniversary increased the intensity of environmental consciousness. As a result , impressive steps, such as a successful Earth Day T-shirt sale, were made. However, after the passing of the anniversary, enthusiasm fell, and support for the Earth Day "organization" withered away. The following year, in hopes of reviving environmental enthusiasm, remaining Earth Day group members formed LEAF. LEAF President, senior Elizabeth Crane, explains, "our purpose is to raise awareness about these controversial issues...but we are not a group to take sides on any issue," she emphasizes. "For example, we do not want to take sides on animal testing, but just to raise awareness of the issue. People are entitled to their own opinions."

LEAF and the Earth Day organization are based on the same fundamental belief: community members must have an increased awareness of environmental issues. But, the new organization is different in one very significant way. While the Earth Day organization works chiefly toward one particular day in April (Earth Day), LEAF attempts to remain sustainably active throughout the entire school year. LEAF emphasizes the importance of this because they feel that everyone needs to understand that environmental degradation should be an issued dealt with on a daily basis.

During the club's first year of existence, while recycling was a fairly new concept, its members publicized proper use of recycling bins. The group's major project last year was the highly successful sale of re-usable, insulated lunch bags.

LEAF receives administrative help from their advisor, Mary Gillespie. Mrs. Gillespies offered suggestions and guided LEAF through administrative procedures for the organic dinner. The organization's direction, however, is left up to its members.

On the horizon, LEAF members are looking at a clean-up effort for areas that suffer from profuse garbage overload. President Liz Crane says, "You don't have to look a thousand miles away to do something about the environment...just pick up trash when you see it."

Memberships is open to everyone, since the organization aims to increase the number of people involved in the environmental movement. With only half of the approximated fifty members taking an active role in the club, membership is encouraged. Meetings are either held during X-Block, or in the evenings at members' homes. States Crane, "We certainly encourage people to join LEAF because the only way anything can be done is if people work together to reach their goal. If the Earth is lost, so is everything else."

# Carousel Cast Prepares for Approaching Performances

by Dave Lin

To be a character in a musical which glorifies baking clams yet encourages you to "keep your chin up high," is a challenge even to the best of actors. This is especially true in the case of this winter's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carrousel. However, the actors and singers cast for this year's musical have been able to successfully combine the frivolity of early twentieth-century shows with the significance of the shows of director Steve Bogart.

After last year's performance of Anything Goes, Bogart and music director Sandi Peaslee sought to find a show that contained more "substance." They chose Carrousel for the contrast between the character Billy Bigelow, played by senior Mike Butler, a carnival barker struggling to find his self-worth and the small coastal town where he lives.

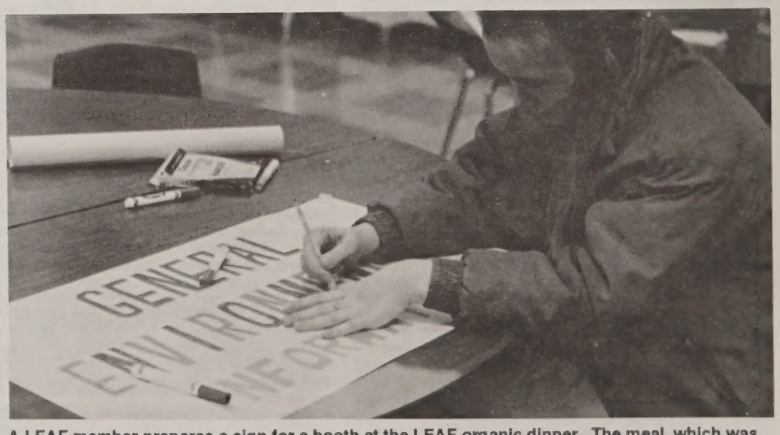
Butler explains how playing Bigelow is rather difficult because of the character's one-dimensionality on script. He comments, "You need a purpose for every character you play, and you have to use real situations to recreate the emotions of your character. This isn't written down [in the script], you need to feel it," he remarks.

Although some of the songs in the musical may seem a bit on the shallow side such as "A Real Nice Clambake" or "June is Bustin' Out All Over", this show will not be performed in a trivial manner. Doing so would eliminate the underlying moral of the show. Senior Jessica van Nostrand, who plays an eighteen year old care-free mill worker, describes her character as "difficult, because she appears to be a ditzy girl." She adds, "You have to go deeper than that; you can't just play her as a ditz; you have to be real." Despite the silliness of her character, Carrie Pepperidge, Jessica says she enjoys the role. She and her sweetheart Enoch Snow, played by junior Andrew J. Thompson, create an uplifting counterpart to the other couple, Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan, played by senior Tanya Frank, who manifest tension in the show.

As a result of the setting of the musical, a coastal New England town in the 1880's, some actors find it rather difficult to portray accurate depictions of their characters. Junior Becca Haywood comments,. "It's hard to imagine myself in the lowly position of a woman in those days, when women stayed home while the men were out all day digging clams."

Neither of these jobs, however, is something that should be mocked. As junior Mark Stevens explains, "Most people don't understand that clam-diggers have very complex lives. It takes hours of intense thought and meditation to come up with the right character."

Perhaps Butler most accurately sums it up when he says, "People these days want more substance in a play. As an actor, I want something I can sink my teeth into - that's why I think Carrousel is a great show. Carrousel is full of substance, [but you must] search for it."




**A LEAF member prepares a sign for a booth at the LEAF organic dinner. The meal, which was the first major LEAF activity, consisted of only natural foods.**

***Photo by Hadley Langosy***

Senior Joanne Wallach prepares to score a goal in a recent varsity field hockey match. The team went on to finish the season with a record of 10-5-3.

*Photo From* Musket *File*

# Maids Reach Tournament

by Samantha Peltz

The Lexington field hockey team closed their regular season on a high point. After losing to top-seated Reading 2-1, the Maids, seeking a tournament berth, came back fighting against Melrose. When the team departed from what was left of the Melrose field, they carried with them a 2-0 victory, thanks to goals by junior Cara Attanucci and senior Samantha Peltz. For the last game of the regular season, the team played Burlington. With a gate trick from junior Crystal Chow, the Minutemaids would beat the Devils of Burlington 3-0. The Maids' season record, 10-5-3, earned them twenty-three points, just one above the required twenty-two, for a spot in the state tournament.

Battling rainy weather and prior game postponements, the Maids were finally able to travel to Malden, to play their first tournament game on November 4. Malden, seated seventh, was demolished by Lexington, seated tenth, in a 4-0 victory. Despite mud and slippery playing conditions, Attanucci would start the Maids' streak with a goal in the middle of the first half. Senior Karen Tracey was quick to increase Lexington's lead by pocketing a second goal soon after. Peltz followed suit by sinking two more points during the remainder of the game, bringing the final score to 4-0 and eliminating Malden from further tournament play.

Lexington then moved on to play third seated Danvers, whose total accumulation of points during the regular season had allowed them to get a by from the first round of tourney games. The Maids fought with tenacity but could not recover from the two goals scored by Danvers in the first half. Lexington dominated second half play but was not able to convert scoring opportunities to goals. Danvers' play was worthy of advancement in the tournament, but play-off losses always make for a poignant season ending.

Sometimes the memory of a final loss can overshadow a team's successes during the regular season, but the Lexington High field hockey team's ten wins should not be forgotten. The team worked hard and earned themselves a commendable record for the season. Lexington can look forward to a successful varsity squad in '93 as the '92 JV team completed its season undefeated and unscored upon. The LHS freshmen team had a winning season as well.

# Boys' Soccer Plays Strong

by Keith Traverse

The Boys' Varsity soccer team met stiff competition throughout the skilled Middlesex League, closing its seasons with a record of 7-9-2. Led by senior co-captains Bob Wong and Brian Baratte, the Minutemen struggled early in the season, as injures forced key players, including first-string goalie Brad Samuels, out of the lineup. The combination of unfortunate injuries and powerful league rivals gave way to a difficult first half of the season for the team. Making the necessary adjustments, the Minutemen went on to improve significantly during the course of the the remaining eight games, refusing to be disheartened by their early season performance. Junior Jake "the Snake" Horowitz replaced the injured Samuels in net and enjoyed a remarkable season, playing both confidently and consistently for the team.

In view of the numerous obstacles that the Minutemen were forced to overcome during the '92 season, the team fared reasonably well. The score of graduated seniors left many gaps to be filled, several which fell into inexperienced hand. As the season progressed, the team moved closer and closer to realizing its full potential, and in the final third of the season, the team was playing to the best of its ability. Key goal scorers Tetsu Inada, Baratte and Wong came through to five the Minutemen the edge on several occasions. In a thrilling game against Stoneham, Baratte scored with one minute left, to prevent Stoneham from gaining the points they needed to enter the State Tournament. The defense, led by Eric Jansen ("thank you sir,") grew less and less forgiving.

With many returning experienced players, the team shows promise for future seasons. Certainly, the team is and will continue to be a team to watch.

# Swimmers Even Up

by Karen Mareiro

This year's girls' swimming team recently ended their season with a record of four wins and three losses. The team was comprised of mostly underclassmen who were very talented. Sophomore Jennifer Berg went to sectionals in the 500 meter freestyle and the 100 meter backstroke. Freshman Monica Kung qualified for the 100 meter breaststroke and three of the Lexington relay teams also qualified for sectionals. Two of the relays made it to the finals at sectionals and Jen Berg went to States for her 500 meter freestyle.

Most of the meets were close but none were as close as the meet against Winchester. Winchester was up by a few points when it came to the last event, a relay. If Lexington won the relay, the team would win the meet. As it turned out, Lexington would lose to Winchester by 1/10 th of a second. At the League Meet, the Minutemaids came in fifth. A large reason for the fifth place finish was Lexington's lack of divers for the diving part of the competition.

With next year's hopefuls, the team is likely to improve.

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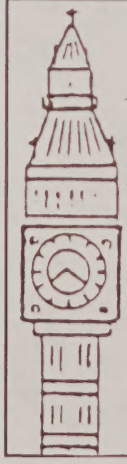

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# Football Finishes Strong

by Mike Diluna

The Lexington High football team finished its season with a strong 7-3 record, third in the Middlesex League. Injuries continued to hinder the team as it dropped two key games which would eventually knock them out of the Super Bowl race. Without key players like Scott Savini, Jeff Wichman, and Rashad Wilson at full strength, playing top teams like Reading and Stoneham proved to be difficult.

The Minutemen went to Reading to play the Red Rockets, who had just beaten Melrose to become 6-0 and first in the Middlesex League. Wilson's ankles continued to make it difficult for him to scramble for those five and ten yard gains when the team needed them. Lexington's offense was stifled by the Reading defense. The only points Lexington got were from a thirty yard touchdown pass from Wilson to senior Kevin Nolen. This play showed a glimmer of what caliber a team Lexington really was had it not been bothered by injuries. Lexington ended up by dropping this tough game 25-7.

With Lexington's Super Bowl hopes nearly gone, the Stoneham Spartans were their next opponents. The Spartan offense was rated on of the best in the league with fullback George Zahropolos and an offensive line that had players averaging well over 230 pounds each. Lexington was without senior Eric Owren who played iron man football, starting at both offensive and defensive tackle. The underclassmen had to step up to fill for Owren and did an excellent job at it. Lexington's defense held the Spartans scoreless and Zahropolos rushed for less than ten yards. Lexington finally scored in the fourth quarter on a Kevin Nolen run to beat the Spartans 7-0. Senior Scott Arch showed why the sports writers called him," one of the fastest backs in the league" as he picked up 94 yards rushing, which was considered nearly impossible to do with Stoneham's size on defense. Senior Josh Gillis also played a great game filling in for Wichman, who had separated his shoulder early in the contest. Gillis played a strong game on defense, making key tackles and stopping the sweep to the outside.

Lexington next traveled to Melrose. Poor field conditions made the game tough on both offense and defense. Lexington could have and should have been victorious, but in the end, lost this tough contest 14-7.

The tenth and last game of the season came (as it does every year) on Thanksgiving against Burlington. This season and particularly this game was dedicated to the memory of Michael Tighe, whose courageous life ended nearly one year ago. Heavy rains threatened a rain out but in the tradition of football, the "game must go on." On the Minutemen's first offense play of the game, Rashad Wilson connected with none other than Kevin Nolen for a 40+ yard pass to get the ball inside the Burlington five yard line. Savini scored on the next play, setting the pace for the rest of the game. Burlington could not stop the Minutemen juggernaut, even though the Devils had defeated Stoneham earlier in the season. Players like Josh Gillis, Colby Crogan, Kevin Nolen, and Jay Campisi played exceptionally well on defense with Gillis and Crogan combining for four sacks. Campisi and Nolen made some incredible hits in the secondary, not allowing any passes to be completed. The offensive line turned in a good game as it game Wilson more than enough time to throw the ball. Bob Walton played a great game at center by not fumbling any snaps in the adverse weather conditions. The finals score was a 29-0 shutout as Lexington showed that when it was healthy, it was one of the finest teams in the Middlesex League.

This past Thanksgiving day marked the final game of one of the strongest senior classes Lexington football has seen in years. Rashad Wilson had over fifty tackles this year and has many Division 1 colleges vying for his hard hitting defense. Kevin Nolen fished among the top scorers in the league and also had schools looking at him. Scott Arch and Scott Savini were an excellent 1-2 punch in the backfield. Seniors Anthony Bonnano and Josh Gillis were among many from Lexington to make the Middlesex League All-Star team with their strong offensive and defensive play. Bonnano also led the linemen with 35 tackles. Travis Hales was also a big contributor making key catches and having a near-perfect record on extra-point attempts.

**Senior runner Becky Dennison cruises to victory in a recent cross-country match.**

***Photo from* Musket *File***

**The varsity football team prepares for a game with Burlington.**

***Photo from* Musket *File***

# Girls' X-Country Runs Second

by Susan Gorman

The Lexington High Girls' cross-country team has always been one of the school's strongest teams, and this year was no exception. The team finished second in the Middlesex League behind Stoneham, with whom they shared a Tri-Championship last year along with Belmont. With only one loss all season, the cross-country team's record was a strong 8-1. They wrapped up their season with victories over Reading, Burlington and Stoneham.

On Saturday, November 14, in Boston, the team competed in the Class Meet, in which Division 1 local teams around Boston were entered. At this meet, the top five individuals and teams were chosen and then sent to the state meet which took place one week later on Saturday, November 21. Becky Dennison was chosen as one of the top five runners in this meet, but unlike the boys' team, the girls' cross-country team did not qualify. On November 21, at the state meet, Becky and many other runners competed in the individual mile race. Becky finished eighth, behind the winner from Pittsfield.

Becky was also chosen as one of The Boston Globe All-Scholastic award recipients. She is the only one on this year's team to be so named. There will be a picture and short article about Becky in The Boston Globe soon. This award is given to about twelve outstanding athletes in their respective sports, and is a great honor for the recipient.

Next year's team will consist mainly of lower classmen, with only one returning senior-to-be, Arpi Terzian. As for to-be-juniors, there will be only two, Jennifer Meyer and Shira Miller-Jacobs. However, if the freshmen/sophomores will be as strong next year as they were this year, the team should not have too man problems, although surely they will miss the great help of graduating seniors Becky Dennison and Chloe Hill. This year's freshmen include Juliet Kinney, Cynthia Lin, Rachel Lowell, Christine Mancuso, Becky McCarthy and Ellen Van Wert. Also, if the school continues to receive promising young runners from the middle schools, the Lexington High team will continue to flourish. The whole team has competed and worked very hard and well together all season, as is evident by their continually strong record and season.

On the team next year, Arpi Terzian believes that," if [the team] stays determined and works hard as we did this year, we should do well. Our team next year has good strong runners but will lack the super talent of Becky and Chloe."

To sum up the season, Becky Dennison said that," I really enjoy cross-country, but I'm glad it's over because it is very stressful!"

# Soccer Maids Fight Hard

by Justine Oppenheim, Rachel Quinn, Rachel Chansky

Ending the season with a strong game against Burlington, the Lexington Girls' Varsity soccer team compiled a final record of 5-11-1. This record however, does not reflect the amount of effort and hard work that the Maids had put forth. Mostly hindered by injuries at the beginning of the season, the Maids were able to "step it up a notch" for the second half of the season. Coach Debbi Childs felt that this season "was a lot of fun. The team got better as the season went on, and individually, the players had improved."

Highlight of the Maids' season were strong wins over Belmont, Melrose, Reading, and Stoneham, making the police log, and Bruegger's "jogs." Many of these wins were attributed to the great play and perseverance of the Maids. Goals were scored from tremendous headers by senior quad-captain Rachel Quinn, spectacular break-aways by senior quad-captain Lora Marzilli, and a blistering barrage of shots from junior Ali Petner and sophomores Katharine Westfall and Caroline Kasparian. The defensive line was continually able to shut down opposing teams' offensive threats, in particular, an outstanding game against the Winchester Sachems. Midfield play was controlled by senior quad-captains Rachel Chansky and Justine Oppenheim, juniors Abby Crocker and Sarah Saalfield, and sophomores Christine Oberto and Julie Bonner. Junior Angela Hadwin had a great season in net, and unfortunately Ben Dover did not see much playing time, maybe just 69 minutes, give or take a few.

> "[This season] was a lot of fun. [We] got better as the season went on, and individually, the players had improved."
>
> *—Coach Debbie Childs*

Although the Maids will lose seniors Rachel Chansky, Lora Marzilli, Mandira Mehra, Justine Oppenheim, Andrea Paroskie, and Rachel Quinn, the Lexington Girls' Varsity team will still be a contender in the Middlesex League next year. With twelve varsity players returning, Coach Childs feels that "next year's team has incredible potential, and if the team works together, they will do well."

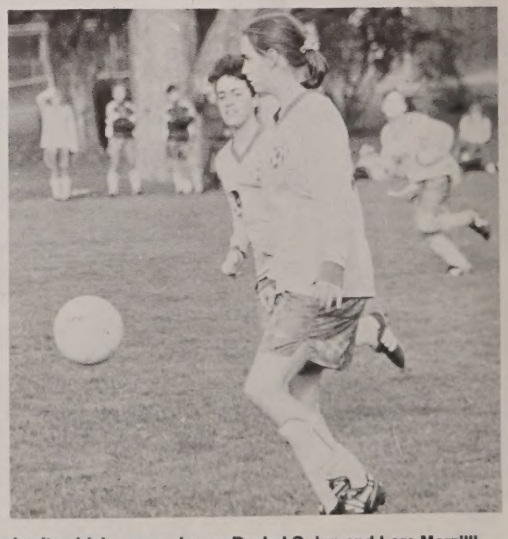
# Golf Team Gets Tourney Berth

by Adam Paone & Dave Cheek

Every member of the Lexington High School golf team had an integral part in leading the team to a berth in the state tournament. During the pre-season, Coach Thiebault had to decide where to put the four returning seniors after losing three graduating players.

Returning seniors Adam Paone and Dave Cheek moved up to the one and two spots respectively to challenge the league's elite. Paone, who had received a Middlesex League honorable mention as a junior, played well throughout the season. Although his record was painstakingly average (1-4-3,) six of his eight matches were decided on the final putt. Adam was unavoidably detained from the final match and thus was unable to attend. Dave Cheek performed consistently and was in all of his matches from beginning to end. Dave won the coveted closest-to-pin award at the end of the season (5'9" from the hole.) Also returning this year were senior teammates Paul Riley (7-1-1) and Andrew Finkleman (7-1-1.) After coming off of watershed seasons as juniors, the positive attitudes and aggressive play of Riley and Finkleman aided the team in defeating man Middlesex rivals, such as Wakefield at the end of the season. Three junior veterans, Jesse Green, Doug Scott (7-0-2,) and Parker Coffman, contributed to many of the team's wins with their vigorous play. Jesse had a consistent year at the number three spot along his partner Chris Segalini (6-3.) The freshman sensation Segalini, put many of his elder opponents to shame, such as his Wakefield match which came down to the last putt. Doug Scott frightened many of his opponents with his match play ploys and ended his season undefeated. Scott's first year partner, Sara Libin, had a great second half of the season by defeating opponents from Belmont and Wakefield. Next spring, Sara will be playing in the women's state tournament

The team had a good year due to the brilliant coaching of Richard Thiebault. When faced with the dilemma of playing either at Pine Meadows or the Lexington Golf Course, Coach Thiebault opted for the latter to provide the team with more of a challenge. His guidance led the team to the state tournament where it beat teams such as Waltham and Medford. Next year, the team will be aided by sophomore Andrew Paone and freshman



**Varsity girls' soccer players Rachel Quinn and Lora Marzilli prepare to take the offensive.**

***Photo from* Musket *File.***